

CLAIMS

1 1. A controller capable of interacting with a remotely located computer, the controller
2 comprising:
3 A a. a data-gathering unit ~~for gathering~~^{configured to gather} data relevant to an industrial control function;
4 and
5 A b. a web server ~~for receiving~~^{configured to receive} requests from the remotely located computer and, in
6 response thereto, ~~transmitting~~^{configured to transmit} to the remotely located computer instructions
7 associated with the data, execution of the instructions by the remotely located
8 computer causing said computer to present the data in a predetermined format.
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1 2. The controller of claim 1 wherein the web server is configured to receive requests and
2 transmit instructions over the Internet.
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1 3. The controller of claim 1 wherein the web server implements TCP/IP.
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1 4. The controller of claim 1 wherein requests are received and instructions transmitted in
2 accordance with the HyperText Transfer Protocol.
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1 5. The controller of claim 1 wherein the instructions define a web page for presentation
2 on a browser running as an active process on the remotely located computer.
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1 6. The controller of claim 5 wherein the controller comprises at least one input/output
2 module, the web page comprising data gathered from the at least one module and
3 formatting instructions.

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1 7. The controller of claim 6 wherein the web page further comprises applet instructions
2 execution of which causes the remotely located computer to (i) periodically request
3 updated data from the controller and (ii) display the data in a dynamic fashion.

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1 8. A method of obtaining and presenting data associated with a control system, the
2 method comprising the steps of:

3 A a. causing a controller to perform an industrial control function;
4 A b. gathering data relevant to ^{an industrial} the control function;
5 A c. storing (i) the data and (ii) instructions defining a web page; and
6 A d. receiving a request from the remotely located computer and, in response
7 thereto, transmitting the instructions to the remotely located computer,
8 execution of the instructions by the remotely located computer causing said
9 computer to present the data in accordance with the web page.

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1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein requests are received and instructions transmitted over
2 the Internet.

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1 10. The method of claim 8 wherein requests are received and instructions
2 transmitted ^{using} by means of TCP/IP.

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1 11. The method of claim 8 wherein requests are received and instructions transmitted in
2 accordance with the HyperText Transfer Protocol.

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1 A 12. The method of claim 8 wherein the web page is presented by ~~means of~~ a browser
2 running as an active process on the remotely located computer.

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1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the web page comprises (i) gathered data and (ii)
2 formatting instructions.

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1 A 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the web page further comprises applet instructions
2 execution of which causes the remotely located computer to display the data in a dynamic
3 fashion.

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1 A 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the data is continuously generated, the instructions
2 causing the remotely located computer to continuously request the changing data from
3 the controller and to display the retrieved data.

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1 16. The method of claim 8 wherein the control function comprises operation of an
A industrial machine, the data-gathering step comprising ^{receiving data from} ~~communicating with~~ the machine.

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1 17. The method of claim 8 wherein the control function comprises operation of an
A 2 industrial process, the data-gathering step comprising ^{receiving data from} ~~communicating with~~ equipment
3 implementing the industrial process.

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